

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11, and 15-18 without prejudice and amend claims 10 and 12-14 as follows.

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The repair method of claim 129 wherein said clips are attached to said ring in circumferential directions along said ring.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A mitral valve repair method comprising the steps of:
providing clips each having two end points which are separated from each other when in
an open configuration and tending to return to a naturally closed configuration by reducing
distance between said end points when in said open configuration;

placing an annuloplasty ring about an annulus; and
attaching said ring around said annulus by causing said clips to pass through said ring,
wherein each of said clips has a tissue-penetrating needle releasably attached through a
flexible member to one of said two end points thereof and said step of attaching said ring
comprises the steps of:

causing the needle associated with said each clip to penetrate and pass through said ring
and tissue of said annulus; and

thereafter pulling said flexible member to position said each clip so as to hold said ring to
said tissue. ~~The repair method of claim 11~~ wherein said needle is caused to pass through said ring at two positions separated by a shorter distance, to penetrate said tissue at one position and to come out therefrom at another position separated from said one position by a larger distance than said shorter distance.

13. (Currently amended) The repair method of claim 129 wherein said clips are each generally U-shaped when in said open configuration, comprising a wire of a shape memory material.

14. (Currently amended) The repair method of claim 129 wherein each of said clips has a tissue-penetrating needle releasably attached through a flexible member to each of said two end points thereof and said step of attaching said ring comprises the steps of:

causing each of the needles of each of said clips to penetrate and come out of the annulus and to pass through said ring; and

thereafter pulling the flexible members to position said each clip so as to hold said ring to said tissue.

Claims 15-18 (Cancelled)